

For Immediate Release

Contact: Erica Daughtrey

February 27, 2009

201-222-2828

*Legislation recognizes National Girls and Women in Sports Day*

*Hoboken, NJ.* – On February 27, 2009, Congressman Albio Sires presented Steven's Institute of Technology senior student Emily Woo with an official congressional record for her outstanding achievements in sports. Emily a member of the swim team recently was a conference champ in the 200-yard individual medley and was part of three conference championship relay teams. She also automatically qualified for the 200-yard relay team for 2009 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships at the University of Minnesota.

The United States House of Representatives approved a resolution on February 10, 2009, introduced by Congressman Albio Sires, to support the goals and ideals of National Girls and Women in Sports Day and to encourage schools and communities to increase opportunities for girls and women in sports.

“Athletics are one of the best opportunities for personal growth, and yet there has not always been an equal opportunity for girls and women to participate,” said Congressman Sires. “As a former athlete, I know firsthand the benefits of competing in sports; and everyone regardless of background should have equal access to be involved. I commend the National Girls and Women in Sports Coalition for their work to give everyone a chance to play.”

On February 4, 2009, the 23rd National Girls and Women in Sports Day was celebrated in schools and communities across the country. National Girls and Women in Sports Day, an event sponsored by the National Girls and Women in Sports Coalition, increases awareness of the importance sports play in the lives of girls and women by celebrating female athletes' achievements, acknowledging the positive influence of sports participation in women's lives, and urging equality and access for women in sports.

The resolution passed unanimously with a vote of 398 to 0.